

D4 WESTport

January 2008

Welcome to the January edition of **WESTport**, MoDOT District 4's newsletter to our Missouri General Assembly members, city and county officials, and other transportation partners from the west central region.

You will receive monthly updates of District 4 projects and activities throughout the regular General Assembly session, and periodic updates during the rest of the year. We hope you will find the information useful and enlightening.

Our District 4 staff is always available to answer your questions and address constituent concerns. See our list of contacts at the bottom of this newsletter for telephone numbers and other information, or visit our district website at www.modot.org/kansascity

Crews Receive Thanks Following December Storms

Three consecutive weekends of winter weather kept MoDOT crews busy in December. The public noticed their efforts and sent these e-mails to the Kansas City District's attention:

Just want to thank you for the great job MoDOT did on keeping the highways safe and clear of any ice, we all know this could have been much worse than it was. I have 8 vehicles in my work fleet and the majority of those deliver in Missouri, other than side streets my drivers reported no problems on the major interstates, thanks for all that you do and continued success on the transportation committee.

Jeff McGhee
Branch Manager Mobile Med Care

I don't believe you staff and crews get thanked enough. During this past ice storm this week, I wanted to commend your staff and crews for getting out and getting our roads cleared and salted in a very timely manner. In fact I just saw another of your trucks pass by my office. I am thankful for the roads being salted because when you do have to get out in the storm to go to work you need to know you can get there safely. So please forward this thank you on to all of your salt crews and those behind the scenes. I believe a thank-you goes a long way- So thanks and Merry Christmas from a thankful citizen.

Jil Spencer, Independence, MO

I just wanted to commend all of the MODOT employees for the superb job they did on the roads in the Kansas City Metro area during the recent ice storm. Thanks to all of you, people were able to travel around the area to reach all of their destinations safely. I applaud your efforts and hard work and thank you for a job well done!

Representative Ray Salva

The road crews did an awesome job in the Blue Springs/Grain Valley area during this recent ice storm. Please express my thanks. I know you probably mostly get complaints so I just wanted to say "WELL DONE!" I hope the crews can continue to keep up this excellent service for the rest of the season.

Unsigned

An excellent job by the road crews in clearing the roads and keeping them clean this past week. Please pass this on to the people who deserve the credit.

Mark S. Huck
Harrington & Cortelyou, Inc.

Monday night I got off work at 7 pm, drove home to pick up Ralph so we could go to OP, KS to stay all night because his surgery was scheduled for early Tuesday morning at KU Med West, and we wanted to be as close to KU Med West as possible before the roads got real bad. We left our house at 8:45 and headed to OP, KS. We were very surprised to see the shape 435 was in. It was excellent. We saw numerous plows/salt trucks out on 435, plowing the slush off the road then spreading ice melt. What a pleasant surprise it was to drive most of the way on pretty good road surfaces.

We just want to thank the crews that were out there all night making the highways passable and less dangerous. It made for a less nervous drive to KS. The crews did a great job and we thank them for it. We were very pleased with the way all the roads were covered with ice melt, not just some areas of the roads, but ALL the surfaces of the roads. It could have been a very dangerous night and next day if it weren't for the crews busting their rears and doing what they did. THANK YOU!

Janet Stephens

What a wonderful job your staff have done on keeping our roads cleared this winter!! I wish I could just go out and thank each and every one of them. Some of my family lives in the St Louis area, and they are giving the guys compliments too!! My 21 year old son is impressed how efficient they are and how they can handle and maneuver the equipment. Thank you again...and be sure to tell them we are grateful!!

Unsigned

Ceremony Marks Mainline Opening

During a Dec. 14 ribbon-cutting ceremony, MoDOT and area leaders celebrated the goal of untangling the old Triangle interchange, crossing the finish line a year sooner than anticipated. Now officially named 3-Trails Crossing Memorial Highway, the crossroads of I-435, I-470 and Route 71 in south Kansas City provides three through lanes in all directions. The interchange is built at the historic crossroads of the Santa Fe, Oregon and California trails.

In addition to capacity improvements that match the volume of traffic from highways feeding into it, the new interchange also provides wider shoulders, more gradual curves and longer ramps to move travelers through safely at freeway speeds. Watched over by 12 Kansas City Scout cameras in and near the interchange, and patrolled by Motorist Assist operators in one-ton trucks, any breakdowns or collisions receive quick response. That helps 250,000 vehicles per day move through the interchange with ease.

Each phase of the project brought noticeable improvements to the interchange. The final phase replaced mainline Route 71 from Bannister Road to Blue Ridge Boulevard. A new Longview Road and bridge over Route 71 will be completed by next summer, and roundabouts will be built at Longview and the collector ramps flanking Route 71 between Red Bridge and Blue Ridge.

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